

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABBA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116306

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA

REF: STATE 114652 , MOGADISCIO 1008

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM
MAY 5, SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU REPEATED PRESIDENT SIAD'S
ASSURANCES REGARDING USE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT BUT INDICATED
DIMINUTION OF SOMALI HELP TO LIBERATION FORCES IN OGADEN
WOULD NEED TO BE QUOTE GRADUAL UNQUOTE.

1. IN LUNCHEON MEETING MAY 5 UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM
RENEWED ACQUAINTANCE WITH AMBASSADOR ADDOU, AND WELCOMED
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IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. ADDOU RESPONDED BY
EXPRESSING GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT STATE
OF RELATIONS AND HOPED THEY CAN GROW STRONGER.

2. MR. NEWSOM POINTED OUT TO ADDOU IMPORTANCE OF
ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT SIAD REGARDING USE
OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ADDOU SAID HE FULLY UNDER-

STOOD, AS DID GENERAL SIAD WHOM WE COULD COUNT UPON TO RESPECT THESE ASSURANCES.

3. UNDER SECRETARY WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO POINT OUT THAT CONTINUED SOMALI HELP OF LIBERATION FORCES IN OGADEN COULD CREATE PROBLEMS IN U.S.-SOMALI RELATIONS AND COULD PROVIDE SOVIETS AND CUBANS WITH CONTINUED EXCUSE TO REMAIN IN ETHIOPIA.

4. ADDOU RESPONDED BY EMPHASIZING GREAT POLITICAL COURAGE SIAD HAD SHOWN IN WITHDRAWING FROM OGADEN, AND POLITICAL PROBLEM THAT PERSISTED BY STRONG PRESSURES TO CONTINUE HELP FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENT. ACCORDING TO ADDOU, IF SIAD IS TO MAINTAIN HIS POLITICAL POSITION, REDUCTION OF HELP TO SOMALIS IN OGADEN WILL HAVE TO BE QUOTE GRADUAL UNQUOTE. THIS HE SAID IS PRESIDENT'S INTENTION. HE ASSURED UNDER SECRETARY THAT HELP WOULD NOT INCLUDE ANY AMERICAN SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT.

5. ON MORE GENERAL SUBJECT IN ANSWER TO UNDER SECRETARY'S QUERY ABOUT SOVIET POLICY, ADDOU SAID THAT SOVIETS BECAME UNHAPPY WITH GENERAL SIAD EARLY IN 1977. AT THAT TIME, SIAD REFUSED SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT FEDERATION OF PROGRESSIVE STATES BE ORGANIZED INCLUDING REPUBLIC OF SOUTH

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YEMEN, SOMALI AND NEW ETHIOPIAN REGIME. SOVIETS ALSO FOUND THAT THEY HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON STRONGLY ISLAMIC SOMALI PEOPLE. CONSEQUENTLY, SOVIETS TURNED TO ETHIOPIA, TAKING CALCULATED LOSS IN SOMALIA. ON ERITREA IT WAS ADDOU'S VIEW THAT SOVIETS THRU CUBANS WOULD NEED TO HELP ETHIOPIA IN ERITREA. IF SOVIETS LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR USE OF PORT AT MASSAWA, MUCH OF THEIR RATIONALE FOR GOING INTO ETHIOPIA WOULD BE LOST.

CHRISTOPHER

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